

Center City Initiative: Report to Council Transportation Committee April 23rd

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Our Vision for Downtown Seattle

24 hrs

Thriving (for all)

Vibrant

Bustling, Energetic

Dynamic/edgy

Convenient

Improved infrastructure

Cosmopolitan

Business

Hub for meeting

Integrating

Diverse

Adapting/Flexible

Fun

New standard of urban living

Innovative

Destination

Community

Child friendly

Harmonious

Families

Service

Compassionate/caring

Healthy

Equity

Opportunity

Safe

Welcoming

People

Affordable/accessible

Clean

Sustainable - \$, social, policy

Inclusive

Collaborative to serve different interests

Synergy

Unafraid to be bold

Change city policies

Necessary Steps for Progress

- Shared understandings of the reality of a big city
 - Human problems and needs
- Shared expectations (standards/boundaries) for public behavior
- Equitable burdens and contributions
- Business and social service representatives can articulate each others' views and strengths

Early Roundtables: Toward Mutual Understanding

- Case studies (Roger; Roberto; etc.).
- Discussed challenges, limits, and opportunities of providing services to different individuals.
- Identified five “Sources of Discomfort” downtown:
 1. Addiction (to alcohol or drugs) and drug dealing
 2. Mental health and actions & behaviors of the mentally ill
 3. Drunk people & related disruptive behavior near nightclubs
 4. “Takeovers” of public spaces by loitering groups – and the perception of menace
 5. Threatening behavior (e.g., aggressive solicitation of various kinds)
 - Illegal
 - Marginal
 - Legal but annoying / concerning

Some Indicators of Progress

- Families of mixed incomes coming together
- More families living downtown
- Public places to meet outside
- Easy mobility for tourists and residents
- More Seattleites spend time downtown
- More retail stores
- More police visible
- Less / no violence, fewer weapons
- Less public dealing & consumption of drugs
- Cleaner, greener, more colorful parks
- Safe and few people suffering on the streets
- More human services connections to care

- Less social dysfunction
- Controlled “externalities”
- Multiple languages
- Laughter / street entertainment
- Good food smells
- More smiles and personal conversations
- More children’s voices
- Less garbage
- Less public urination & defecation
- More Seniors
- Positive media coverage
- Intentional mix of housing & businesses
- Social services next to businesses (e.g. 1811 Eastlake)
- Positive conversations between business owners and residents

Outcomes

(desired conditions)

- 1. Everyone is safe and comfortable downtown.**
- 2. Downtown is a desirable neighborhood for everyone to live or visit.**
- 3. Downtown is a thriving hub of economic opportunity for all.**

1. “People are safe and comfortable downtown”

Possible Indicators:

- a) % of people who report feeling safe downtown – by neighborhood
- b) % and # of people in Seattle (or the metro region) in need of housing or shelter who have it.
- c) % and # of people in Seattle (or the metro region) in need of services or treatment who have it.
- d) # of “Calls for Service” to SPD, by intersection
- e) # pedestrians downtown

2. “Downtown is a desirable neighborhood to live or visit” -- Possible Indicators:

- a) # of children and families visiting downtown.
- b) # of children and families living in permanent residences downtown.
- c) # of visitors and tourists visiting Seattle.
- d) Cleanliness of downtown streets, sidewalks, parks, and other public spaces.
- e) % of residential vacancies.
- f) % of residential units downtown that represent mixed-income housing
- g) Ratio of “workforce housing” (85-125% of AMI) to market-rate housing

3. “Downtown is a thriving hub of economic opportunity” – Possible Indicators:

a) Retail health:

- 1) Retail sales downtown
- 2) % of commercial vacancies.
- 3) % of retail vacancies
- 4) # licensed street vendors, food trucks, and sidewalk café permits in downtown core.

b) Individual opportunity:

- 1) % of downtown residents employed at least 20 hours / week, differentiated by income tier
- 2) # and % of jobs in the metro region located downtown.
- 3) Income disparity index downtown
- 4) % of downtown residents earning > 85% regional Average Median Income (AMI)

CCI Subcommittees (Jan. 2013)

- Law enforcement:
Align and clarify arrests, prosecution, & sentences for low-level street offenses.
- Outreach & Engagement Mapping and Alignment
- Increase Shelter → Housing Transitions
- Shared Advocacy Agenda in Olympia

Shelter → Housing Transition

Transitioning long-term shelter residents into better housing frees up beds in our shelters and provides stable housing for homeless individuals in our community.

- Population focus: Chronic long-term shelter residents (180+ days)
- Goals:
 - Help shelter residents into better housing
 - Free up shelter capacity
- Long-term residents
 - 600-700 single adults
 - 60% >50 years old
 - Predominantly male; often with disability

Shelter → Housing Transition

Setting a target for moving long-term shelter residents into housing will help us organize our work and outcomes.

Action Steps

1. Set target percentage for moving people out of shelter by Thanksgiving
2. Focus on partnership with DESC, CCS, Compass Center, YWCA
3. Work underway, ramp up efforts
4. Identify target population by name, housing options needed
5. Identify housing within existing inventory and need for new options

Findings:

Number of People/Challenges

- HSD, joined by Council Central Staff, interviewed stakeholders, including law enforcement and service providers.
- Stakeholders indentified up to **150** people to be served by CCI.
- Common behavior observed in the CCI target area:
 - Loitering
 - Panhandling
 - Drug/alcohol use and associated behavior
 - Mental health issues
 - Disability and health issues

Findings: Demonstrating What Works

Best Practices

In other parts of the country, multi-disciplinary outreach and engagement teams have successfully connected people with services.

Current System

In Seattle, 17 programs with 30 staff, of which, only 8 provide street – based outreach countywide.

CCI Outreach Steering Committee was established to develop understanding of street population and current resources. The committee is comprised of broad diversity of stakeholders.

The committee developed matrix of outreach efforts/day center services and identified gaps and common strategies.

Outreach and Engagement Effort

- Expand and intensify current outreach efforts to include CCI Outreach & Engagement Program – with multi-disciplinary team approach.
- MDT will create more a coordinated effort in anticipation of the following results:
 - Increased outreach services to include evening and overnight hours.
 - Increased coordination with HSD, DOC, SPD, MID, and Providers through weekly meetings.
 - Intensive engagement with people on the street
 - Flexible programs and program spaces where people can go
 - Collection of data to better understand needs

Measuring Impact

- Increase number of individuals that access services
- Increase number of individuals that apply for and receive benefits
- Increase number of individuals entering transition/permanent housing and remain for six months post placement
- Increase number of individuals entering transitional/permanent housing and remain for 12 months post placement
- Decrease number of individuals visibly residing on the street
- Decrease number of people returning to the streets and/or shelter

Timeline

Outreach and Engagement team

Steps	Date
Release Letter of Intent for funding	April 22, 2013
Notification of award	May 15, 2013
Begin program implementation	June 1, 2013
Assess progress	December 1, 2013 June 1, 2014



Coordinated Street Furniture

- Exploring potential public benefits of advertising-supported program in downtown
- Purpose is to reduce clutter, beautify city streets, and provide functional public amenities
- Vendor would supply furniture and maintenance services
- Possible program elements include:
 - Transit shelters
 - Kiosks
 - Refuse bins
 - Bike share



